***Overview***

Welcome to American History II! I have the **highest expectations** of each and every one of you. It should be your goal to earn an A in this class and I am here to do everything I can to help you achieve at the highest level. During the course of the semester please to not hesitate to ask me questions and seek extra help when necessary (SMART LUNCH). Below you will find out how your grades will be calculated this semester and a brief description of grading policies, classroom assignments and expectations.

***Course Description***

* This is a survey course. Students will examine the political, economic, social and cultural development of the United States from the end of the Reconstruction era to present times. The essential standards of American History Course II will trace the change in the ethnic composition of American society; the movement toward equal rights for racial minorities and women; and the role of the United States as a major world power. An emphasis is placed on the expanding role of the federal government and federal courts as well as the continuing tension between the individual and the state. The desired outcome of this course is for students to develop an understanding of the cause-and-effect relationship between past and present events, recognize patterns of interactions, and understand the impact of events on in the United States in an interconnected world.
* American history is designed to be challenging and requires students to take greater responsibility for their learning by participating in problem seeking and solving, scholarly and creative processes, critical analysis and application, reflective thinking, and the expression and defense of ideas generated through the study of content.
* American History II- Unpacked Standards: <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/acre/standards/new-standards/social-studies/american-history-2.pdf>

**Basic Expectations:**

Students are expected to meet the following:

1. **Be Present and On Time-** You must be in your seat and working on the warm up when the tardy bell rings!
2. **Be Prepared and Engaged in Learning**- Have all your materials and work, do not use your cell phone unless instructed to do so!
3. **Be a Person of Character-** be respectful! Respect yourself, your classmates, your classroom, and your teacher! Have integrity!
4. **Be Safe and Comply with all PCHS and WCPSS Policies**

**Class Rules**

There are some basic rules for the class.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Rule #1 Read the Directions | Rule #3 Positive Attitudes ONLY |
| Rule #2 Be responsible for:   * YOUR Grade * YOUR Learning * YOUR Work * YOUR Actions | Rule #4 Treat others as you would like to be treated |
| Rule #5 Respect other people’s property and person |
| Rule #6 Laugh WITH anyone but laugh AT no one |
| Rule #7 Come to class and hand in work ON TIME |
| Rule #8 Do not disturb people who are working or listening |

**Materials/ Supplies Needed**

* Loose leaf binder and paper or spiral binder with folder
* Highlighters
* Pencil and pen (blue or black ONLY)

***Grading Breakdown***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Category*** | ***Academic*** | ***Honors*** |
| **Major Assessments/Tests** | 50% | 60% |
| **Minor Assessments/ Classwork** | 25% | 20% |
| **Homework** | 15% | 15% |
| **Participation** | 10% | 5% |

***Classwork and Homework Assignments*** will be graded using a **4 point scale** as follows: A copy of the explanation for the grading scale is available on the class Blackboard page.

**4=100, 3=89, 2=79, 1=69, 0=40**

* Classwork and Homework account for a large portion of your grade. It is important you keep up with and complete all your classwork!
* If you do not complete a Classwork assignment that is to be completed IN CLASS, you will receive a score of 0.

***A Word about Participation***

It is absolutely necessary that each of you come to class prepared to challenge text, ask questions, and voice your opinion on any range of topics. We cannot have a successful classroom without full participation from everyone. I will never force you to speak, but my expectation is that everyone will take an active role in our classroom this semester.

***Textbooks:***

***The Americans*-** This text will be used as an in-class resource

**Online Textbooks:**  Students will be asked to utilize online, public domain textbooks for home based readings. The websites for these public domain books are below. Each of these links will also be available on the class blackboard page.

* Mintz, S., & McNeil, S. (2013). Digital History. Retrieved (8/19/14 from  
  [http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/)
* <http://www.ushistory.org/us/index.asp>

Merrill American History II

Please read the course expectations and return this signed portion of the paper by Friday, January 22nd. This will be your first homework assignment of the quarter.

Student’s Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Name: (please print)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_